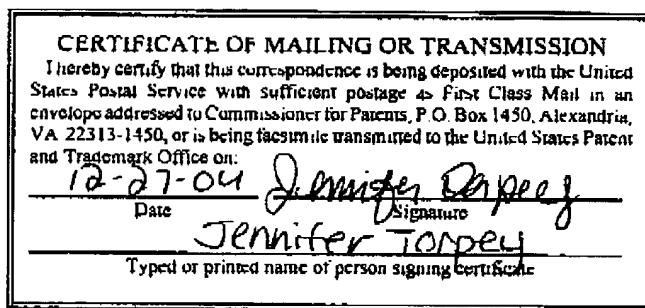


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Walter P. Sjursen, Derek D. Mahoney, John M. Margicin, Frederick J. Fritz, John G. Aceti, David A. Preves and Ponnusamy Palanisamy
Application No.: 09/477,700 Group: 2643
Filed: January 6, 2000 Examiner: Nguyen, Tuan Duc
Confirmation No.: 9604
For: HEARING AID WITH LARGE DIAPHRAGM MICROPHONE
ELEMENT INCLUDING A PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD

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AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in response to the Final Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 25, 2004 in the above-identified application. Reconsideration and further examination are requested.

An extension of time to respond to the Office Action is respectfully requested. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this Amendment.

Please amend the application as follows: